

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **May 23, 2006, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 6

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Donation of Police Vehicles to Gulfport, Mississippi**

RECOMMENDATION: Appropriate up to \$5,000 from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies to transport four surplus vehicles to Gulfport, Mississippi as a donation from the City of Lynchburg.

SUMMARY: In December 2005, City Council authorized the donation of 4 police vehicles and a stump grinder to cities in Mississippi to help with relief efforts due to Hurricane Katrina. Initially, the vehicles and stump grinder were to be auctioned in a City auction. However, there were no bids high enough to warrant the sale of the vehicles and stump grinder.

Just this month a rather convoluted plan came together to get the stump grinder delivered to Ocean Springs, Mississippi. A plan has yet to come together to have the police vehicles delivered to Gulfport. Initially, it was thought that staff from Gulfport would journey to Lynchburg to get the vehicles; this has not been the case. Council member Dodson has connections with staff in Gulfport and has been working to make the necessary connections with municipal staff in Gulfport.

Following are 5 options and the associated fiscal impact for delivering these vehicles to Gulfport:

1. Use four city employees to drive the cars south then fly them home. This estimate is based on the employees driving 8 hours a day and spending at least two nights in hotels during the trip plus meals. The only unknown cost not factored in is how the four employees would get to Mobile or New Orleans from Gulfport to fly back to Lynchburg, both are about an hour away from Gulfport. - Estimated cost is \$2,687 (overtime is not included).
2. Use five city employees to drive the cars to Mississippi then ride back in a chase vehicle driven by the fifth employee. This scenario adds more cost for gas, food and hotel but eliminates the air fare - Estimated cost is \$1,862 (overtime is not included).
3. Hire a group of retired employees like the dealers use to deliver vehicles and pay each of them 20 cents for each roundtrip mile. The City would send five people along with a chase vehicle they would use to drive back to Lynchburg. The City would also have to pay for their meals, gas for the vehicles and hotel but under this scenario only one night of lodging is included. - Estimated cost is \$3,395 which includes almost \$1,700 for the mileage allowance alone.
4. Contract with a local car carrier to move the vehicles. - Estimated cost is \$4,000
5. Have four volunteers drive the vehicles to Gulfport and fly out of New Orleans back to Lynchburg. Council member Dodson has stated that he can arrange for someone to drive himself and three others to New Orleans or Mobile from Gulfport to catch a plane to fly back to Lynchburg. The expenses would be the flight, two motel rooms for the overnight stay on the drive and food on the trip. Council member Dodson could also arrange for a place to stay in Gulfport. - Estimated cost is \$2,200. *Note: This option was added following the Mayor/Vice-Mayor meeting.*

Staff recommends option #4.

PRIOR ACTION(S): December 13, 2005

BUDGET IMPACT: Up to \$5,000 from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies

CONTACT(S): Bonnie Svrcek, Deputy City Manager 455-3990

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED that up to \$5,000 is appropriated from the General Fund Reserve for Contingencies to the Office of the City Manager for funding to cover the expenses associated with transferring four surplus vehicles to Gulfport Mississippi.

Introduced:

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

054L